



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 26, 2007

Major Developments

Storms Knock Out Power to About 600,000 Customers in Midwest December 23-24

Storms bearing ice and high winds ravaged portions of the Midwest on December 23 and 24, knocking out power to an estimated 600,000 electric utility customers throughout the region. The hardest hit service areas included Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), which serves the Chicago, Illinois metropolitan area, Detroit Edison (DTE), which serves customers in Detroit, Michigan, and Consumers Energy, which provides power to much of western Michigan, including Grand Rapids. By December 25, most affected utilities had restored power to all customers, although scattered outages remained in some locations as of 11:00 a.m. December 26.

Midwest Customer Power Outages December 23 - 26, 2007			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
ComEd	Illinois	230,000	200
Ameren	Illinois	11,597	30
Consumers Energy	Michigan	127,000	800
DTE	Michigan	69,000	500
Indiana Michigan Power	Indiana/Michigan	14,483	0
Duke Energy	Indiana	39,439	318
NIPSCO	Indiana	28,000	0
Duke Energy	Ohio	51,374	19
Wisconsin Public Service	Wisconsin	4,701	4
Alliant Energy	Wisconsin	6,168	0
Alliant Energy	Iowa	10,206	0
MidAmerican	Iowa	3,151	35
Total*		595,119	1,906

*Note: Column "Latest Reported" represents outages reported as of 11:00 a.m. on December 26, 2007. Peak outages for individual utilities occurred at different times and may not represent the total number of customers affected throughout the duration of the storm. See sources for more details.

Sources:

<http://www.wbbm780.com/Power-Mostly-Restored/1384868>
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2007/2007-12-24-091.asp>
http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_IllinoisOutageInformation.asp
<http://my.dteenergy.com/home/powerProblems/index.html>
http://www.wvmt.com/news/power_1345756_article.html/customers_winds.html
<http://www.consumersenergy.com/welcome.htm?/Newsroom/Newsindex.asp>
http://blog.mlive.com/flintjournal/newsnow/2007/12/high_winds_knock_out_power_sho.html
<http://www.indianamichiganpower.com/news/outages/viewstorm.asp?stormID=746>
<http://www.duke-energy.com/indiana/outages/current.asp>
<http://thenewsdispatch.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=8004&TM=32748>
<http://www.duke-energy.com/ohio/outages/current.asp>
<http://www.alliantenergy.com/docs/groups/public/documents/pub/p013332.hcsp>
<https://accel.wisconsinpublicservice.com/secure/ssl/service/outagemanagementsummary/public/outagegrid.aspx>
<http://alliantenergy.com/docs/groups/public/documents/pub/p013332.hcsp>
<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/>

Strong Winds Knock Out Power to More Than 100,000 Customers in Southern California December 25

Strong winds downed power lines and knocked out power to 112,792 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers on December 25. By the evening of the December 25, power had been restored to all but 15,000 customers.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE_News_Local_D_wind26.2c49b9e.html

Dominion's 921 MW North Anna 2 Nuke Unit in Virginia Shut December 25

A reactant coolant pump tripped and the unit shut, a news source said.

Bloomberg, 10:37 December 26, 2007

Update: Xcel Energy's 1,076 MW Prairie Island Nuke Unit 1 at Full Power December 26

The unit shut December 21 when equipment problems developed with a back-up diesel generator.

Reuters, 10:01 December 26, 2007

Update: Exelon Boosts Output at 636 MW Oyster Creek Nuke Unit in New Jersey December 24

The unit shut December 19 when problems developed with a pump. As of December 24, the unit was operating at 93 percent capacity, up from 25 percent December 21.

Bloomberg, 09:43 December 24, 2007

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuke Unit 1 in Minnesota at Full Power December 26

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 76 percent on December 25.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

Update: AES's 227 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service December 22

According to a filing with California Independent Service Operator, the unit returned to full power following an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200712221515.html>

InterGen's 322 MW La Rosita Gas-fired Unit 1 in Mexico Shut December 25

According to a report issued by the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200712251515.html>

Ontario Energy Board Approves Must-Run Contract for OPG's 2,140 MW Lennox Oil and Gas Power Plant December 21

OPG filed with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to close the Lennox facility in February, citing economic reasons. IESO, however, said the power grid could not reliably handle the loss. Under the must-run contract (RMR), the grid operator will pay OPG to keep the plant in service. The Ontario Energy Board, which approved the RMR, said the grid would need Lennox's generation until 2010, at the earliest.

Reuters, 15:52 December 21, 2007

Update: Ice Storm Delays Completion of Proposed 250 MW Smoky Hill Wind Farm in Kansas

The 250 MW Smoky Hill Wind Farm should have been online this week, according to earlier estimates. Ice storms this month, however, slowed progress, and developer TradeWind Energy said it hopes to finish construction in January.

<http://www.wishtv.com/global/story.asp?s=7538885>

http://www.sajournal.com/rdnews/story/smoky_wind_farm_12_19_07

Coker Unit Slowed at Chevron's 260,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery December 24

A compressor shutdown reduced output at a 66,000 b/d coker unit, and caused flaring, according to a news source and filings with state regulators. When the incident occurred, Chevron was restarting the unit, initially shut December 10 for maintenance. The company anticipates that the unit should return to full capacity soon.

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/db5e842bce2fe76a882573b006a1e79?OpenDocument>

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/54d8ba2020b7cb08882573b90040aaff?OpenDocument>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2422143620071224>

Flaring at Chevron's 260,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery December 25

According to a filing with state regulators, the refinery flared sulfur dioxide for unknown reasons. The event lasted more than 24 hours, but has been contained.

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/3efaaf06411ef981882573bc005d970d?OpenDocument>

19,000 b/d Coker Unit Snag Reduces Rates at Western's 62,000 b/d Yorktown, Virginia Refinery December 24

A coker unit snag slowed production at the refinery, a company spokesman said. The incident, which triggered emissions, is under investigation, he said.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2429777820071224>

Update: All Units Back up at Valero's 245,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery December 26

A power outage shut the facility December 3. All processing units are now restarted, a company spokesman said. Reuters, 10:49 December 26, 2007

Update: Still Recovering From Fire, ExxonMobil Restarts Units at 62,200 b/d Billings, Montana Refinery December 21

The company announced that it has successfully restarted a hydrofiner and powerformer but that a hydrotreater unit damaged in a fire at the refinery October 17 is still being repaired. The refinery continues to operate at reduced rates.

Bloomberg, 15:58 December 21, 2007

Bad Weather Shuts Oil Export Ports in Mexico December 23, 24

All Ports Back Online December 25

Bad weather and high waves shut the Cayo Arcas, Coatzacoalcos and Dos Bocas oil export ports December 23. The three ports serve as shipping points for about 80 percent of Mexico's oil exports. Cayo Arcas and Coatzacoalcos reopened December 24, and Dos Bocas returned to service December 25.

Reuters, 18:44 December 24, 2007

Reuters, 12:21 December 25, 2007

Brazil's State Oil Company Hits Record Production December 25

Brazil's state oil company, Petrobras, said its output reached 2 million b/d for the first time on December 25. The company anticipates that production will average 2 million b/d throughout 2008 up from 1.8 million b/d this year.

Reuters, 12:54 December 26, 2007

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a6yrmMDX66ko&refer=news>

Natural Gas

Update: Wyoming Interstate Starts up 406,000 dth/d Kanda Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline in Utah December 22

The 24-inch, 124-mile pipeline will deliver natural gas from the Uintah Basin in Utah to the Wyoming Interstate mainline, according to a Wyoming Interstate Co. Ltd (WIC) release. The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved related compression facilities along both pipelines December 26. WIC is a subsidiary of El Paso Corporation.

<http://ebb.cigco.com/ebbCIG/ebbmain.asp?sPipelineCode=WIC>

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Keyera Plans 6-inch Sour Gas Pipeline Extension along Caribou North Gas Gathering System in British Columbia December 20

The extension will connect the existing pipeline to an already-complete, but unused pipeline system, and expand access to natural gas fields. The current system connects the 65 million cubic feet/day Caribou gas processing plant to producers in the north. The expansion could be complete by first quarter's end, 2008.

[http://www.keyera.com/titanweb/keyera/keyera.nsf/AllDoc/D1AAF7297E29C17A852573B7007AC14B/\\$File/Pipeline%20extension%20and%202007%20capital%20spending%20update.pdf?openelement](http://www.keyera.com/titanweb/keyera/keyera.nsf/AllDoc/D1AAF7297E29C17A852573B7007AC14B/$File/Pipeline%20extension%20and%202007%20capital%20spending%20update.pdf?openelement)

Other News

Florida Releases Proposed Rules to Boost State Ethanol Use December 21

Pending approval, the new fuel motor rules could mandate ethanol distribution and encourage in-state production. Reuters, 13:27 December 21, 2007

Iran to Start up Russian-Built Nuclear Power Plant in 2009

The Bushehr plant should be online by March, 2009, an Iranian spokesman said December 22.

UPI, 02:01 December 23

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 26, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	95.83	91.58	61.03
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.03	7.18	5.88

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Monroe Gas Storage Receives FERC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Proposed 12 Bcf Natural Gas Storage Facility in Mississippi December 20

http://www.monroegasstorage.com/documents/MonroeGasStoragereceivesFERC7c-12-21-07_000.pdf

Colorado Governor Cautious as State Considers Drilling in Natural Gas-rich Roan Plateau—New Regulations to Slow Development

http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=9

**Canadian National Railway to buy, Upgrade Athabasca Northern Railway December 24—
an Important Link to Alberta's Oil Sands Region**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20071226.RCN26/TPStory/Business>

Update: PG&E to Ship 375,000 dth/d along El Paso's Proposed 1.2 Bcf/d, Wyoming-to-Oregon Ruby Natural Gas Pipeline December 21

<http://investor.elpaso.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=97166&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1089806&highlight=>

DOE Issues Steps for Earning Federal Risk Insurance—Coverage Would Help New Nuclear Power Plants Cover Costs of Regulatory, Litigation Delays

<http://www.doe.gov/news/5791.htm>

Electrical Damage Cuts Output at Santos' 25,000 b/d Mutineer-Exeter Oil Field Production at 4,000-5000 b/d December 24—May be Slowed through April, 2008

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7760217.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Venezuelan Oil Assets Undamaged After 5.0 Magnitude Earthquake December 26

Bloomberg 10:33 December 26, 2007

Update: Cat Cracker Back Up at PDVSA's 320,000 b/d Willemstad Isla, Venezuela Refinery December 19—Some Units Still Down After Power Failure December 3

MKW, 05:10 December 26, 2007

Venezuela Hopes to Boost Orinoco Heavy Crude Reserve Output, from 600,000 b/d to 2 Million b/d in Five Years December 22

Reuters, 16:28 December 22, 2007

Poor Visibility Closes Turkish Strait at Canakkale December 24

Reuters, 02:58 December 24, 2007

Update: Chevron Expands Plans for Gorgon LNG Project Offshore Australia Boosts Proposed Output from 10 Million tons/year to 15 Million tons/year

http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=5

Turkish Attacks in Northern Iraq Fuel Supply Worries as Oil Prices Spike December 26

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a2O29O9F4AAU&refer=home>

25 Die in Northern Iraq as Suicide Bomber Crashes Truck near Baiji Oil Refinery December 25

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/26/world/middleeast/26baghdad.html?_r=1&ref=world&oref=slogin

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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